

WSDOT I-5 Construction in Seattle and Shoreline

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I-5 construction in downtown Seattle continues; only one lane of southbound I-5 open to traffic this weekend

Weeknight construction

Crews continue to work overnight on southbound I-5 in downtown Seattle through April 29. This nighttime work helps speed up weekend work and reduces the number of weekends we need to close lanes and ramps on I-5 during weekends.

Weekend construction

This weekend construction crews will remove and replace pavement on the right lanes and shoulder of southbound I-5 between Union and James Streets and on the James Street exit.

This weekend is the second of four major construction weekends for this project. The next two construction weekends are planned on May 13 - 16, and May 20 - 23. We previously postponed weekend work due to wet weather. If we must postpone additional weekends, we will then add June 17 - 20 and June 24 - 27 to our construction schedule.

Weekend lane and ramp closures

At 10 p.m. on Friday, April 29, crews will close:

- three lanes of southbound I-5 from Mercer Street to Spring Street. The Stewart Street exit will remain open.
- the southbound I-5 exit to Union Street.
- the southbound I-5 exit to Columbia/James streets.
- the Howell Street on-ramp to southbound I-5.

These lanes and ramps will then remain closed day and night the entire weekend.

The express lanes will be dedicated to southbound I-5 traffic all weekend.

By 5 a.m., Monday, May 2, all lanes and the Union and Howell street ramps will reopen. One of two lanes on the Columbia/ James street off-ramp may remain closed until 5 a.m. Tuesday morning, May 3.

We need your help: plan for traffic congestion

Without drivers' help, traffic could back up from downtown Seattle to Northgate in the southbound lanes and Boeing Field in the northbound lanes. We need your help to keep traffic moving:

- Plan ahead during construction by getting [real-time traffic](#) information from our Web site, radio or television.
- Use Aurora Avenue (SR 99/Alaskan Way Viaduct) or I-405
- Allow extra time to get through Seattle during construction and, if possible, adjust your travel schedule.
- Share the ride-[carpool, vanpool, or ride the bus](#).
- Tell your friends: print and post our weekly traffic flier ([download the pdf](#))

During construction downtown Seattle will remain open for business. However, traffic congestion is unavoidable given the freeway lane and ramp closures required. To help keep traffic moving, we will:

- Open the I-5 express lanes southbound throughout weekends when construction is underway.
- Operate the southbound mainline HOV lane as a temporary general-purpose lane.
- Encourage people to use alternate routes: I-405 and State Route 99 (Aurora Avenue/Alaskan Way Viaduct).
- Provide driver information on variable message signs, highway advisory radio and via our toll-free 5-1-1 traveler information phone line.
- Provide extra Incident Response Teams to clear incidents and help drivers

Check out our [Web site](#) for construction and traffic updates, other late breaking news, and detour routes for drivers who would usually use the Howell, Stewart or James ramps.

While we are taking steps to minimize noise, people who live or work close to the construction may hear our construction work. The way that you will hear our construction will depend upon where you are located in relation to the freeway and where crews are working. For example, residents who are able to directly view the freeway work zone from their home may hear or feel more than people whose homes are shielded by the Convention Center, walls or other buildings. If you have questions or comments about construction noise, please call our 24-hour noise hotline at **(206) 768-9052**.

Last weekend's construction successful; WSDOT thanks drivers

Despite a six-hour rain delay, crews completed all work planned for the first weekend of I-5 makeover construction in downtown Seattle and reopened lanes and ramps in time for the Monday morning commute. During a busy weekend crews removed and replaced pavement on the right lane and shoulder of southbound I-5 between Olive and Union Streets and the Union Street exit.

Thanks to drivers who helped keep traffic moving while construction was underway. Many drivers helped by sharing the ride, rescheduling trips, riding the bus or Sounder train, or taking Highway 99 or I-405.

Last weekend construction crews closed two lanes of southbound I-5 and the Howell on-ramp and Union off-ramp. We kept the express lanes opened all weekend southbound to help keep southbound traffic moving during the lane closures. Despite large numbers of people traveling to

Mariners and Sonics games and U2 and Seattle Symphony concerts, traffic jams were far less severe and frequent than expected. Northbound traffic backed up through downtown Seattle on Saturday due to the major University of Washington football event at Hec Edmundson Pavilion in Montlake.

Roanoke Noise Walls Update

WSDOT crews have finished support shaft, anchor bolt and foundation construction, and installed the first panels of the Harvard Avenue noise wall Friday, April 15. We're making progress, from south to north on Harvard and should have the entire wall done in early May, finishing the project's first stage. The second stage is set to begin later this summer. [Check out our construction progress.](#)

If you have feedback specific to the I-5 Roanoke Noise Wall project or would like to be added to the Roanoke Noise Wall e-mail list, please contact Katherine Betzer at BetzerK@wsdot.wa.gov.

Shoreline I-5 project 175th to 205th

Two lanes of I-5 in each direction Shoreline will be closed for striping work at night during on weeknights May 2 through May 5. For up-to-date information or late-breaking news, check the Construction Update Report or the project Web site.

- At 7 p.m. nightly, Monday through Thursday, crews will close the southbound HOV lane. At 10 p.m. the adjacent lane will close. Both lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. the following morning.
- At 8 p.m. nightly, Monday through Thursday, crews will close the northbound HOV lane. At 11 p.m. the adjacent lane will close. One lane will open by 6 a.m. the following morning, the other by 7 a.m.

Smokey Point Bridge demolition on I-5 in Arlington

This week WSDOT crews will begin demolition on the existing two-lane bridge on State Route 531 at Smokey Point and Interstate 5 and replace it with a new six-lane bridge. The work is part of a larger project to improve the entire interchange. For project details, visit the project [Web page](#). Demolition work will require the following closures for the safety of the traveling public:

- **Saturday, April 30** - We will close all lanes of northbound I-5 at exit 206 from 10:30 p.m. Saturday night to 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning while crews demolish half of the old bridge. Crews will be closing northbound I-5 the following Monday, May 2 between midnight and 5 a.m. to continue cleanup.

All northbound I-5 traffic will be detoured up the 172nd Street NE off-ramp and back down the 172nd Street NE on-ramp. Slow-downs are expected while northbound I-5 is closed overnight Saturday. Traffic on I-5 approaching the ramp will slow, but significant back ups are not expected because overnight traffic volumes are low. Drivers may experience back ups and delays on 172nd Street. If anything changes in the schedule of this project, updated information will be posted on the our [I-5 Seattle & Shoreline Construction](#) Web page.

Federal Way I-5 Night Lane Closures

Crews are removing and replacing 52 broken and damaged concrete panels on southbound I-5 from South 336th Street to the King/Pierce County Line. This is a part of our project to add high occupancy vehicle lanes to both directions of I-5 from S. 320th Street to the King/Pierce County line.

Closures: Beginning at 9 p.m. Friday, April 29, crews will close three lanes of southbound I-5 from S. 336th Street (just north of SR 18) to the King/Pierce County Line. Two of these lanes will remain closed around the clock and one lane will reopen to traffic during the day, from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. All lanes will reopen by 5 a.m. Monday, May 2.

Traffic: At night, one lane of southbound I-5 will remain open to traffic. During the day two lanes will remain open to traffic. Without cooperation from drivers, southbound I-5 traffic could back up six miles, as far as SR 516, Kent Des Moines Road.

Alternate routes: SR 167, SR 99

For more information, read the latest I-5 South King County [e-mail update](#) on our Web site.

Legislature approves transportation funding; we're making every dollar count

The Washington State Legislature recently approved an \$8.5 billion statewide transportation investment package. This package means the future for Washington families just got better. It gets Washington moving by widening highways, improving interchanges, adding park and ride lots and expanding high occupancy vehicle lanes. It improves safety by funding median barrier, rumble strips and guard rail improvements; turn lanes to reduce accidents on single-lane roadways; and sidewalks and crosswalks to improve the safety of children going to and from school.

You probably already know that this funding package includes money for extremely important and high-profile projects like replacing the Alaskan Way Viaduct and the SR 520 bridge and improving I-405. But you might not have yet heard about the hundreds of other important projects, large and small, in every corner of the state, that this funding package also makes possible. Stay tuned for more information on specific projects soon.

As always, we are working hard to deliver quality construction projects on time and on budget to help keep Washington State people and businesses moving. Our commitment to you and all the people of Washington is clear - make every dollar count!

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